

# *Vietnam Veterans of America*



VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL, LASDON PARK, SOMERS, NEW YORK



*Westchester  
County  
Chapter #49*

If box is checked  
your dues are due now.

☐

All the POW's are not home yet!  
Do you know?  
Do you care?



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Vietnam Veterans of America  
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# VVA CHAPTER 49 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

## Chapter Officers:

President: Rick Burns ..... 769-7744  
Vice President: Al Zawiski ..... 428-9352  
Secretary: Jim LaManna ..... 793-6077  
Treasurer: Al Singerman ..... 930-7433

## Board of Directors: (5)

Bob Kennedy ..... 669-5411  
Terry Keogh ..... 428-9845  
Bob Miller ..... 391-8723  
Carl DiLiberto ..... 462-0782  
Barney Puleo ..... 682-4949

## State Council Delegates: (6)

Dan Griffin  
Jim LaManna  
Barney Puleo  
Al Singerman  
Al Zawiski  
Terry Keogh

## Nominating Chairman:

Dan Griffin

## Veterans Offices:

Yonkers: Louis Navarro ..... 377-6700  
Carmel: Brennen Mahoney .... 845-808-1620

Vet Center: 300 Hamilton Ave, White Plains, NY 10601

Roger Paulmeno ..... 682-6250  
Vinnie Matthews ..... 682-6250

White Plains Clinic ..... 421-1951  
23 S. Broadway, White Plains, NY 10601

FDR Montrose Hospital ..... 737-4400

## Vets Employment Counselor:

Greg Whittaker ..... 997-4138

## Westchester County Veterans Service Agency:

Director: Vito Pinto ..... 995-2146 / 2145

## Committees:

Membership Phil Wanderman ..... 963-3034  
Legislation Al Singerman ..... 930-7433  
Comm. Affairs Dan Griffin ..... 682-4949  
POW / MIA Dan Griffin ..... 682-4949  
Member Products Jim LaManna ..... 793-6077  
Color Guard Rich Palazzo ..... 845-297-1513  
Scholarship Bob Miller ..... 391-8723

## WESTCHESTER COUNTY VETERANS MUSEUM

HOURS:  
11:00 - 3:30  
914-864-7068  
WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY  
AND HOLIDAYS

Chapter 49  
Telephone / Fax Number  
(914) 682-4949

Website:  
[www.vietnamvets49.org](http://www.vietnamvets49.org)  
E-Mail:  
mailto:Chapter49@aol.com

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month  
at  
Armonk Post 1097  
35 Bedford Rd.  
Armonk, NY 10504

This newsletter is a publication of Chapter 49, however the opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors, and as such, they do not necessarily represent those of Chapter 49. All views are welcome for publication. Submit items of interest, including poems, short stories, photographs, etc., to the Editors at the Chapter address or call for other arrangements. Materials submitted will not be returned unless otherwise requested.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**If you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email, call us at 682-4949, email us at [chapter49@aol.com](mailto:chapter49@aol.com) or go to our web site at [vietnamvets49.org](http://vietnamvets49.org)**

**May as always is very busy for Chapter 49; On Sunday May 25th my office will hold our annual Veteran Appreciation Day at Playland Park starting at 12:00. For veterans and active duty there will be free parking, free admission, free rides, free barbeque and music. The Marines will be landing again, they will land three helicopters, and they will charge out of the helicopters and set up a perimeter with fifty caliber machine guns. Chapter 49 will have t-shirts, hats, pins, etc. for sale. If you want to attend, call my office at 995-2145/2146, to receive your free parking pass.**

**Later on at 4:00 we will hold a barbeque at Montrose VA Hospital for the PTSD Stress Unit behind building 15.**

**After that we will hold our annual "watch fire" down at the picnic area, when it gets dark.**

**The next day on May 26<sup>th</sup> we will march in Chappaqua's Memorial Day parade; we will form up at 10:00. We meet at the grocery store parking lot near the Firehouse.**

**Later on we will hold our ceremonies in Lasdon Park at 3:00; at the Westchester County Vietnam Memorial.**

**There are two very important Agent Orange Bills that will treat children of Vietnam vets born with birth defects. Call, write, or e-mail your Congressmen and your Senators; tell them to sign onto H.R. 2519 and S.1602! So far none of our representatives have signed on to either of these very important Bills!**

**Take care of yourself and each other**

**Dan Griffin**

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**Welcome to our new members**

**Luigi Marricco from Hawthorne**

**There have been many versions of this creed; I made some changes  
to a version I last saw.**

**Dan**

## **VETERAN'S CREED**

**I am a veteran; I have seen and done things that many  
will not understand**

**I am a warrior and member of a team spanning the  
world**

**I have served my country proudly and now standby to  
serve my brothers and sisters in arms**

**I will never accept defeat**

**I will never quit**

**I will never leave a fallen brother or sister. If they are  
hurt, I will carry them, if I can't carry them, I will drag  
them**

**I will help them face their enemies, to include the  
demons from within**

**They are my brothers and they are my sisters**

**I am a veteran!!**

## **POW/MIA Update 26 □ Cambodia Remains Repatriated**

A ceremony was held in Cambodia on 2 APR to repatriate what are believed to be the remains of three American servicemen who went missing in action more than 40 years ago during the Vietnam War. The remains, in three white coffins draped with U.S. flags, were hoisted Wednesday into a C-17 military cargo plane for transport to Hawaii, where they will undergo DNA testing to try to confirm their identities. An honor guard of four currently serving U.S. servicemen carried the coffins. "As the son of a combat helicopter pilot who served in Vietnam twice, I am truly privileged to be a part of this important ceremony," U.S. Ambassador William Todd said in a speech at Phnom Penh International Airport in which he also thanked the Cambodian government for its assistance in searching for the missing. "To my fellow Americans assembled here today, I am humbled and honored to join with you to pay respect to our fellow countrymen who put our nation's needs above their very lives," Todd said. "Today, we honor colleagues who died far from home and whom we never knew."

Some 90 Americans were listed as missing in action in Cambodia from the Vietnam War, which ended in 1975, but the remains of only 37 have been recovered and identified. The latest sets of remains were found in eastern Kampong Cham province. U.S. forces staged a brief ground incursion into eastern Cambodia in 1970 and bombed the country heavily from 1969 to 1973. A year ago, the Pentagon announced the burial at Arlington National Cemetery of the fragmentary remains of a Marine who perished in a failed helicopter rescue from Cambodia of the crew of the merchant ship Mayaguez in May 1975, an incident that is considered the last U.S. military engagement in the long Vietnam War. Their helicopter crashed after coming under heavy fire; 13 aboard were rescued at sea and 13 others were declared missing. Remains of 12 other U.S. servicemen who also were aboard the helicopter had 36 been accounted for previously, following a series of searches off the coast of Cambodia. [Source: The Associated Press | Sopheng Cheang | 2 Apr 2014 ++]



# AND ANOTHER THING ...

## Paying Respect to Veterans

*Visit Lasdon Park and observe the memorials honoring those who served in the military.*

*by Jerry Spette*  
*Community contributor*

As a Vietnam veteran, I documented my fellow veterans paying their respect to fallen comrades. These three images were recorded at the Vietnam Memorial located in Westchester County's Lasdon Park in Somers. "The Vigil" was taken at night during Christmas and the other two, "Vietnam Memorial Sculpture" and "Honor To a Fallen Soldier" were taken during

Memorial Day ceremonies hosted by the Vietnam Veterans of America. It's great to go to the parades and photograph all the bands, people in colorful costumes and the fire engines, but one must realize that Memorial Day is not just about a day off to barbecue hot dogs. We must remember the purpose of this day is to honor those many U.S. soldiers and sailors who died to protect our freedoms that sometimes we take for granted.

So, as a self assignment why not try to document a special holiday such as Memorial Day, Independence Day or Veterans Day and try to capture the real meaning of the occasion.

*Jerry Spette is a salon photographer and membership host at the Color Camera Club of Westchester, [colorcameraclub.org](http://colorcameraclub.org), and provides Westchester's legal community with support.*



**"Honor To a Fallen Soldier"** was taken during Memorial Day ceremonies hosted by the Vietnam Veterans of America. Photo courtesy of Jerry Spette



**"The Vigil"** was taken at night during the Christmas season.

Photo courtesy of Jerry Spette



**"Vietnam Memorial Sculpture"** was taken during Memorial Day ceremonies in Lasdon Park. Photo courtesy of Jerry Spette

## Long Term Care Insurance □ Necessity or Rip Off

None of us are getting out alive and there is a pretty good chance we'll all need some form of skilled nursing services if we live long enough. So, the question up for debate is "Is long-term care insurance a necessity or rip off?"

**What's the worst that could happen if you do buy long-term care insurance – you'll never need care and will have lost the opportunity to invest the money.** What's the worst that could happen if you DON'T buy long-term care insurance:

A review of the State Farm website <https://www.statefarm.com/insurance/long-term-care> reveals some simple scenarios to figure out what it would cost to buy a premium at age 40 vs 60 and how that would compare with someone who instead chose to invest the premium amounts. Using the criteria for purchasing a policy; New customer; Live in TX (they don't offer the product in CA); Premiums start at age 40 for one scenario and 60 for the second; 90 day waiting period before benefits kick in; Daily cap of \$150, which covers around \$4,500 a month depending on the number of days in the month; and 5 year payout, which is the longest one they offer, here's how it plays out assuming State Farm never increases the premium and our buyers start using benefits at age 80: If instead that same 40 year old and 60 year old saves and invests the premium amount where they earn 6% annually the results are: 85 It appears that if you save the money the benefit is you have control over it. If you ultimately do need skilled nursing care you'll have the cash to get the care you need. Another approach is to consider your home as your long-term care protection. If your home is mortgage-free, that asset can be used to handle your care if you can no longer live by yourself. The risk with purchasing the LTC insurance is you have no control over what the company will do or whether you will be able to keep up the payments. If you decide that purchasing a long-term care insurance policy is the right choice for you, then make sure you do your research BEFORE signing on the line. Here are a few things to make sure you understand:

1. What is the waiting period before your benefits kick in?
2. What is the cap on the daily amount they will pay?
3. What is the monthly cap?
4. How many years does your policy cover?
5. Is there anything that the policy specifically will not cover?
6. Can the company raise your rates? If so, is there a cap?
7. Can the company reduce your benefits? If so, is there a floor below which they cannot go?
8. If you miss a payment, can they cancel your policy?
9. What is their payout track record?
10. What kinds of complaints have been made against the company specific to payouts on LTC insurance policies?
11. How is the company rated by the rating agencies?
12. What happens if the company goes out of business?

[Source: MoneyTalksNews | Ree Klein | 6 Sep 2013 ++]

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## **Chapter 49 Scholarship awards for 2014**

\*The Pete Lambert Memorial Scholarship \$700 — Brian D. LaPlaca attended White Plains High School

\*The Peter T. McCauley Memorial Scholarship \$700 — Daniella Z. Koller attended Mamaroneck High School

\*The Hamilton Fish Memorial Scholarship \$700 — Joshua L. Koller attended Mamaroneck High School

\*The William Sudderth Memorial Scholarship \$700 — Matthieu A. Ortiz attended Mamaroneck High School

\*The Anthony Shine Memorial Scholarship \$700 — Caitlin M. Piccirillo-Stosser attended Ossining High School

\*The Jonathan Shine Memorial Scholarship \$700 — Ben I. Ross attended Ossining High School

On behalf of the Officers, Board of Directors and Members of Chapter 49 we would like to congratulate these young individuals and wish them all the luck in their educational endeavors.

We would like to offer a special thanks to the Scholarship Committee for all the work they have done.



## MAY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 meeting Armonk 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17 Lasdon Park Plant sale
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Playland 12:00 Barbeque 4:00 Watchfire	26 Memorial day parade 10:00 Lasdon 3:00	27	28	29	30	31 Lasdon park D-Day display 12:00

## JUNE 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 meeting Armonk 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	6 Cancer walk	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day
15 Father's Day	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 pizza Party FDR Stress Unit 5:30	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## JULY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 meeting Armonk 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	4 Independence Day	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 pizza Party FDR stress unit 5:30	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## AUGUST 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 meeting Armonk 6:30dinner 7:30 meeting	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26 pizza Party FDR stress unit 5:30	27	28	29	30



# ★ MEMBERSHIP ★



WE NEED YOU IN THE VIET-NAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

## MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY AND FEES

MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL WHO SHARE OUR CONCERNS, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, FRIENDS, SUPPORTERS, AND FAMILIES, VETERAN OR NOT. WE ENCOURAGE ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ANY VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WHO SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 1959 TO MAY 7, 1975.

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP:

- ★ INDIVIDUAL MEMBER (IND) - A VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WHO PAYS MEMBERSHIP FEES ANNUALLY.
- ★ ASSOCIATE MEMBER (ASO) - A NON VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WHO PAYS MEMBERSHIP FEES ANNUALLY.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

- ★ LIFE MEMBER (PAID) - A VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WHOS LIFE MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL.
- ★ ASSOCIATED LIFE MEMBER (PAID) - AN ASSOCIATED MEMBER WHOS LIFE MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL.
- ★ LIFE MEMBER PLANNED PAYMENT (LMPP) - A VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE PLANNED PAYMENT ( LMPP ) FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP.
- ★ ASSOCIATED LIFE MEMBER PLANNED PAYMENT ( ALPP ) - AN ASSOCIATED MEMBER WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE PLANNED PAYMENT (ALPP ) FOR ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP.
- ★ THE PLANNED PAYMENT REQUIRES COMPLETION WITHIN A PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS.
- ★ FEES: ANNUAL FEES OF \$ 20.00 FOR INDIVIDUAL OR ASSOCIATED MEMBERSHIP OR MAKE A PAYMENT OF 50.00 FOR A THREE YEAR MEMBERSHIP AND SAVE \$ 10.00.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

#### CURRENT AGE:

49 AND UNDER.....	\$ 250.00
50 TO 55.....	\$ 225.00
56 TO 60.....	\$ 200.00
61 TO 65.....	\$ 175.00
66 AND OVER.....	\$ 150.00

#### PLEASE NOTE:

- ★ PROOF OF AGE MUST BE SUBMITTED ON ALL APPLICATIONS FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP.
- ★ COPY OF FORM DD 214 MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR VIET-NAM ERA VETERANS.

## \* MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION \*

- ☐ I AM A VIET-NAM VETERAN / FEE: \$20.00 of 50.00 / Copy of DD 214 is Required
- ☐ I AM A NON-VIET-NAM VETERAN AND PLEASE ENROL ME AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF VVA / FEE: \$20.00 or 50.00
- ☐ RENEWAL of MEMBERSHIP / FEE: \$20.00 or \$50.00
- ☐ I Wish to Contribute and be kept informed  
(Enclosed is my Annual Contribution) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ ADDRESS CHANGE (Indicate Chages Below)

#### LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

- ☐ VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN
- ☐ ASSOCIATE MEMBER

\* see note above

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE of BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make Cheque or Money Order Payable to: V.V.A Chapter #49  
To: Membership Chair, V.V.A. Chapter #49 PO Box 224, Pleasantville, NY 10570

Questions?: Call the Chapter. Phone/Fax (914) 682-4949  
Meetings of the Viet-Nam Veterans of America, Chapter #49  
are held the first Thursday of each Month @ 7:30pm.

Please check current Newsletter for Location.



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